



We love The Leys!

EIGHTY per cent of people who live on The Leys are proud of their community and love living here, and nearly seventy per cent of people feel safe.

THE findings are the result of major research carried out on The Leys as part of The Connecting Communities Project that aims to provide people with skills that are needed to help them work in community organisations.

Sue Funge who organised the research and compiled the results said that eighty per cent of residents see the strength of their community in how well groups and individuals from different backgrounds and ethnicities get on with each other.

Work on the project started in February with the launch of the Community Development in Action course, and in March a questionnaire was designed in conjunction with Oxford City Council. A thousand copies were distributed by the team of ten residents who took part in the course to gain confidence and

acquire practical skills needed to work effectively in their community.

Sue Funge said: "Sixty per cent of people who took part in the survey said they believe the area has fantastic resources available locally but 84 per cent would like to see more. Only 26 per cent of people said they wished they could move away. More than half of the people questioned said they think that the area does have an unreasonably high level of anti-social behaviour and crime and more than 80 per cent said that the estate has a negative image but that is not how they feel about living here."

Leys News also came out really well in the survey and nearly 90 per cent of residents get a copy every month and 73 per cent said it is an informative and useful local resource.



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Rory Campbell, Sue Funge, Louise Ashall, and Kymel Austin, who all worked on the survey of local residents to find out about life on The Leys.

Sue added: "It is hoped that the findings of this pilot project are received positively and that it is noted that there is a strong sense of community in The Leys. Developing the community further could bring about lasting change and perhaps an end to

the negative perception of the estate as a result of its exposure in the press 20 years ago. Commitment to taking forward the findings and developing action plans with the community is essential to bring about positive change and a break away from the

cycle of deprivation."

All residents who took part in the survey were entered into a prize draw to win £15 of Argos shopping vouchers. The winner was Stuart Parsons from Blackbird Leys Road.

Winning Pegasus pair go to Amsterdam

TWO pupils from Pegasus School beat off tough competition to scoop first and second prize in this year's Oxfordshire Literary Festival.



SHAY DIXON WON FIRST PRIZE with Lewis Nanton a close second. The Year Six pupils entered work that they had produced during their studies of World War II.

Headteacher Mrs Jill Hudson said: "At Pegasus we love to learn and we know that we learn the best when we are trying new things that are challenging and difficult. This year our year six children embarked on a study of World War II.

"The children enjoyed the topic so much that during the following term the entire school took on the topic with the title Behind Bars. The Year Six pupils studied the life of Anne Frank and produced work that was both insightful and informative. Some of the writing was so

good that we decided to enter it into the Oxfordshire Literary Festival. We were thrilled that out of over 500 entries, Pegasus came first and second."

Mrs Hudson added that the children were so captivated by the story of Anne Frank that a trip was organised for 15 children to go to Amsterdam and visit her attic. Mrs Hudson added: "The children were amazed that it was possible to visit Anne Frank's attic and really wanted to go. We had a fabulous time and it would have been easy to say no to trip but at Pegasus we believe in responding to what our children want, and giving them experiences that are challenging but will live with them forever."

COMING NEXT MONTH:
WIN a lifestyle makeover with Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre and Leys News. To celebrate the major refurbishment of the leisure centre one lucky reader has the chance to get fit, healthy and achieve a balanced lifestyle by taking part in our exclusive competition.

We will also be launching a new, regular fitness column offering tips, advice and inspiration for anyone who is keen to take better care of themselves.

Don't forget to look out for all this in next month's Leys News.



Give and Gain Day at Pegasus School

See pages 1 and 6



Leys News Grand Prix Special

Read Kev Dyer's report on page 7

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Leys News is a not-for-profit business dedicated to providing news and information to the whole community. We are not affiliated to any political party, and we operate an equal opportunities policy. We encourage any resident to get involved in our work.

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SUBMISSIONS

LEYS NEWS welcomes submissions and ideas for articles and photographs from all sectors of the community. If you would like to send us a press release about your community project please email it to editor@leysnews.co.uk and we will consider it for publication in a future issue.

The next issue of Leys News will be delivered by 1 September and the deadline for advertising and editorial copy is Friday 13 August.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello!

WELL HERE WE are with the school summer holidays just started and hopefully a few weeks of glorious sunny weather to look forward to (fingers crossed!)

I can hardly believe that it is exactly a year since I joined Leys News as the paper's new Editor, the time has flown so fast and so much has happened during that time.

I have to say that I enjoy producing each issue of the paper more than the last and the feedback that I am getting from all of you would indicate that we are all doing something right. You will see from our front page story about the brilliant Connecting Communities project, that people do really love living In Blackbird and Greater Leys, and without doubt feel a strong sense of community.

We may well live and work in what is considered to be one of the most deprived areas of the county, but the fact is that people are proud

to live on The Leys and are certainly making the most of their community.

We were delighted to see that many of you who were questioned for the research consider Leys News to be a valuable community resource, and that you are also supporting the fact that we are now a monthly publication. Please do keep your feedback coming-we love to hear from you!

As well as the great news about Connecting Communities, this month's paper is packed with a diverse mix of news, features, sport and photos so why not grab your copy, make a picnic and head to the great outdoors and explore where you live this summer?

Whatever you get up to over the next month, make sure that you make the most of your community and continue to love your life on The Leys!

Best wishes

Sarah

Recipe of the Month

This month's recipe is for Chicken curry with spinach and has been submitted by Nindy Devi.

To serve two to four people.

Ingredients:

- 20 small pieces of chicken thighs or chicken breast.
- Tinned, fresh or frozen spinach
- Between five and ten tablespoons of cooking oil
- Between two and four onions
- One or two teaspoons of salt
- One teaspoon of turmeric
- One teaspoon of Garam Masala
- Fresh garlic and ginger
- Green chillies, or one teaspoon of chilli powder
- One teaspoon of black pepper
- Tin of tomatoes chopped in the food processor
- Three or four sprigs of fresh Coriander

Method:

1. First wash the chicken and spinach in clean water and drain.
2. Heat the oil and add onions cook until golden brown, stir continuously so they do not stick to the bottom of the cooking pot.
3. Add all the spices to the onions to make a Masala sauce.
4. Cook for a further two or three minutes on low heat, and later add the chicken and spinach.
5. Still on a low heat cook for 25 minutes.
6. Finally, sprinkle with fresh Coriander. Serve with boiled rice, naan bread and salad.

Anna's letter from America

Anna Pavelin used to work for Leys News as our office manager. Earlier this year she left to go on a personal journey of discovery and adventure, visiting friends and sacred sites around the world and generally (we hope) staying out trouble.

Dear Leys News

I thought I would send you an update about the fun I've been having in various airports with my hand luggage.

My bargain basement wheely suitcase I'd bought as carry on luggage came a cropper on an internal flight in the US and they managed to get a huge rip in it. I went to complain in Washington Dulles airport, not really expecting anything to come of it but I was delighted when they replaced my cheapo bag with a brand new piece of quality luggage. It was even a bit bigger. "Great," I thought, "no more sitting on the suitcase trying to squeeze it shut..."

Unfortunately the Easyjet check-in staff didn't seem to love my new luggage quite as much; at 3.00am the orange jacketed lady on the counter at Gatwick eyed my bag suspiciously. "Will your bag fit in to that container?" She asked

pointing at a tiny metal cage. "Of course," I answered, "I've taken it on lots of Easyjet flights."

With the air of someone who can spot a traveller lying about their luggage in the early hours of the morning a mile off, she said icily "Show me."

I took my bag and tried to squash it into the cage but it wasn't going anywhere. The line of people waiting to check in watched with amusement

"You'll have to pay £58 extra to check it in," the clerk said with satisfaction.

"No way," I answered, "let me repack it." As herbal tea bags and underwear flew out of the bulging bag and into my other case the queue sniggered, but it still wasn't enough, the bag got further into the cage but stuck halfway. "It's got to go all the way in and out," Ms Grumpy said, then added "...easily". Then I noticed that my fancy

new bag had some extra unnecessary straps, which I decided to cut off, if only I could find my travel scissors...

After I had emptied my other bag out on the floor looking for the mini scissors, I started cutting off bits of the new bag. I said a quick prayer and then cried out in delight as I managed to ram the bag in the cage. Luckily a man looking on offered to help get it out and even managed to make it look like it slid out easily. The grumpy check-in clerk must have admired my efforts to save £58 because she let me take it as carry-on, and I got a cheer from the queue.

So let this be a lesson to you all, measure your bags before travelling, and remember cheap airlines often only let you check one bag in for free!

*Best wishes
Anna*

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Out at the start of SEPTEMBER

Copy & Advertising Deadline: 13 August



By Jane Yates . To see more of Jane's work please visit: www.wolvercoteartist.co.uk

Give and gain at Pegasus School



GIVE AND GAIN DAY: Employees from Grant Thornton UK LLP and from Midcounties Cooperative spent a day assisting Pegasus pupils with the maintenance of the School allotment. For more details see main story 'Big gains for Blackbird Leys' on page 6.

Police appeal after Knights Road robbery

Thames Valley Police is appealing for witnesses after a robbery in Knights Road on Tuesday July 13.

At around 8.15pm, an 18-year-old man was walking alone through the park between the Kassam Stadium and Knights Road, when he was approached by four men.

One of the men hit him with a wooden stick causing him to fall over, while the other men surrounded him and kicked and punched him. They demanded money and stole £110 from him.

The 18-year-old man went to the JR2 Hospital where his injuries were treated and he was released the same night. He had a cut to his head which was treated with sterilised strips.

One of the offenders is described as white, around 5ft 6ins tall, and in his mid to late teens. He was skinny, had a big nose, and was wearing a grey hooded top.

Another is described as white, in his mid to late teens and around 5ft 7ins tall. He was wearing a black hooded top and had a black scarf over his face.

Investigating the incident, PC Kierin Brogan from the Oxford Robbery Team said: "This is a well-used route between Blackbird Leys and the Kassam stadium that usually has a lot of foot traffic going through."

"I am appealing for any witnesses that may have seen four young men matching our descriptions in the area at the time."

"We are taking this incident very seriously and as a result of this robbery, we will be increasing patrols in the area and using a number of plain clothed officers to help detect offenders as part of Operation Buzzard – our local robbery reduction initiative."

"I want residents of Blackbird Leys to follow our twitter site: twitter.com/tvp_bbleys – this way, we can quickly and easily communicate directly to our community, so they can help with witness appeals and also get the latest updates for the area."

Work due to start at Old Fire Station

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL is working with Crisis, the national charity for single homeless people, to redevelop the Old Fire Station. The building work will start on August 9 and local artist Emma Reynard has helped design and paint hoardings which will go around the site during the construction stage.

Councillor Bob Price, Leader of Oxford City Council, says: "We are pleased that we have got to this stage and the funding has been secured for this facility."

Leslie Morphy, Chief Executive of Crisis,

says: "The redevelopment of the Old Fire Station is fast becoming a reality. We do hope that local businesses and residents will take the opportunity to come along to our open day on August 5 to meet us and find out more."

The Old Fire Station will be home to a new Crisis Skylight Centre providing education, training and employment opportunities for homeless and vulnerably housed people, and a social enterprise the Crisis Skylight Café, which will be open to the public.

Celebration for congregation



A special service to celebrate 50 years since the first Priest moved into the newly built community of Blackbird Leys was held in June. The service was led by John Pritchard, The Bishop of Oxford.

Stay safe in Blackbird Leys this summer



PATROLS and visibility will be stepped up on the Blackbird Leys estate in Oxford this summer, in a bid to keep students and visitors safe.

During June, July and August the neighbourhood team will be patrolling the estate, along with the Thames Valley Police Mounted Section and Oxford's Robbery Team to deter people from committing robberies.

The neighbourhood team will be welcoming the students visiting the Kassam Stadium and will be sending out Bluetooth messages to the students and residents on the estate to promote the work being carried out to keep Blackbird Leys a safe place.

People housing foreign language students on the estate are being asked to do their bit to help keep them safe during their stay in Oxford.

Neighbourhood Sergeant, Rob Axe, said: "If you are housing a foreign student, ask them a few questions about their plans for the evening, where they are planning to go. Warn them to be careful and to look after themselves and their property by following this advice:

- Keep your mobile phone out of sight as much as possible.
- Keep your wallet out of sight.
- Make sure your bag/rucksack is closed, zipped and buckled. If someone grabs it, let it go. Bags and their contents can be easily replaced.
- Stay with your friends.
- Don't walk alone through parks at night, stay on the main roads.
- IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 999

Anyone with information regarding the robberies should contact the Blackbird Leys Neighbourhood Policing Team on 0845 8 505505 or email leysneighbourhood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

For more information about Blackbird Leys neighbourhood team visit www.thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

LEYS FAIR **COMING SOON!**

Saturday 11 September 2010

12noon to 5.30pm



Blackbird Leys Park and Leisure Centre

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SPAR
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Greater Leys

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The Leys WI

Get Crafty with The Leys WI

Have you ever wanted to have a go at some handicrafts but not known where to start?

THE WOMEN of the Leys WI tried a variety of handicrafts at their recent meeting at the Clockhouse. Jessica Cooper enjoyed making a bracelet bag and Jannette Winstone tried her hand at decorating eggs. Others were making things from pin cushions to cushion covers and finding skills they didn't know they had!

The Leys WI have now launched their new website which they hope will keep members up to date with activities being planned as well as showing anyone interested in joining the variety of things the WI offers. You can even find out what the book group is reading this month.

If you are interested in trying out the WI then you can go long as a visitor to see if it's for you. They are a friendly bunch of women and you'll be made very welcome. Plans for August include a pub evening and a picnic in Florence Park.



You can find out more by visiting the new website at www.theleyswi.moonfruit.com or you can e-mail theleyswi@yahoo.co.uk or phone Rachel Fisher on 07863 563583.

Improved Recycling Service

RESIDENTS IN OXFORD will be able to put nearly all their recycling in one container from October.

The improved recycling collection service will be simpler to use and will mean that residents will be able to recycle more materials including plastics and drinks cartons.

A leaflet explaining the changes is currently being delivered to most homes in Oxford. It asks them whether they want a 240 litre blue wheeled bin for recycling, a 140 litre wheeled bin or whether they wish carry on using their old recycling containers.

Councillor John Tanner, Board Member for a Cleaner, Greener City, said: "I am delighted most residents will be able to recycle more materials and place it all in one container.

"This scheme will make it easier for residents to recycle as they will be able to throw nearly all their recycling into one bin.

"We understand that some homes may not be able to cater a 240 litre wheeled bin, so we are asking residents if they want a smaller container or want to continue to use their recycling boxes.

"I would like to thank all residents who contribute to improving our environment and help make Oxford a carbon neutral city by sorting out their waste and sending less to landfill."

Getting out and about is a walk in the park!



A TEAM OF PARENTS, CHILDREN AND STAFF from The Leys Children Centre, launched the new walking map of The Leys today with a walk through Spindle Berry Park.

Jenny Martin, Head of the centre said: "Children fed the ducks and we all enjoyed a picnic. Most of us didn't know about this pond and we realised how easy it is to get out and enjoy the outdoors. The small group of seven children and eight adults set off from Cuddesdon Corner. We stopped by the trees in the middle of the field for a chasing game around the trees and some songs.

"Then we walked on another 15 minutes to the pond. One mother said that her daughter had really enjoyed this walk but normally she would have been bored by now. Coming along with other children and having a snack and some songs- it made it all really fun."



Picture of the Month: Leys News community photographer Pete Dalton has been out and about capturing local scenes. This month we feature one of a series of photographs that Pete has taken of The Blackbird Leys Adventure Walk. If you have been inspired by Pete's picture and would like to submit your own photograph to be considered for publication in future issues of Leys News, please email your image to editor@leysnews.co.uk (Please ensure that all images are of high quality and a minimum of 300 dpi.)

Green Fingers

BY STUART MABBUTT

We're in for a balmy summer

AS LEYS NEWS has become a monthly production, the pressure on me to produce more gardening related articles increases. As such, due to time constraints, my scribbling will be shorter in length, but hopefully, just as educational for you all.

A topical subject to cover here is on the subject of Lemon Balm (*Melissa Officinalis*), which many of us have growing in our garden, even if unintended as it spreads so readily. It is a perennial plant, that smells strongly of lemon when you crush the hairy leaves in your hand. It can often be found in hedges and on road verge out there in the Oxfordshire countryside.

A client asked me the other day if you can eat it, and on researching it, I was surprised that you can. I assumed the hairy leaves and pungent pong would make it unpleasant. But no, I've discovered the leaves can be infused in hot water to make tea, they can be chopped up and added to mint sauce to give it some extra zing. Also, I found the leaves can be used in making salads and even used as seasoning for soups, sauces and even custard.

I wrote an article a number of years ago about edible plants we can find growing in meadows, but I never fathomed lemon balm was so consumable too. Just goes to show that we gardeners never stop learning.

*Keep enjoying the summer.
Happy gardening*

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Business and Enterprise

Leys Women's Business Network Update BY KATIE CHESTER

THE Leys Women's Business Network is a group for all women who are interested in running a business or who have their own business, however big or small. It's a friendly group which meets on the first Tuesday of each month to exchange ideas, offer support and learn from expert speakers.

In our July meeting we had a talk from two knowledgeable and friendly tax advisors who were able to answer questions and allay fears about the tax system.

In August we will be having a networking meeting, so bring along some nibbles or soft drink and something to promote your business, such as flyers, business cards, samples or just your ideas. The meeting will be held on Tuesday 3 August from 7.30 - 9pm at 26 Kingfisher Green, Greater Leys, OX4 7BX

We will also be holding a workshop on Saturday 18 September from 10am - 1pm where media expert and Leys News editor Sarah Edwards will teach us how to write a press release to promote our businesses. Please let us know by 15 August if you would like to come along.

Contact:

Email: leysbusinesswomen@yahoo.co.uk

Facebook: *women's business network (Greater Leys and Blackbird Leys)*

Twitter: *leysbusinesswomen*

Webpage: www.otcn.co.uk/leys_group.htm

Working from home is child's play

FOR many parents, the option to work from home is ideal as it offers flexibility and means you can spend time with your children. For Leys childminder Agata, it was the obvious career choice.

What do you do ?

I'm a childminder - I look after children in my own home.

What made you decide to become a childminder?

I've always enjoyed working with children, and I have childcare qualifications from Poland. I have a B.A. in Pedagogy for deaf children and a Masters in Pedagogy as well as nursery nurse qualifications. When I lived in Germany as an au pair I got to know a German child minder and I thought it seemed like a lovely job.

What did you have to do to become a childminder here?

I had to do an ICP (Introduction to Childcare Practice) course and an exam, a first aid qualification and get a CRB check as well as do lots of paperwork. It took about four months altogether.

Tell me about a typical day.

It's very busy! I try to make every day different by having different activities for the children, but still have a routine so that they know what to expect. The first child arrives at 7.30am. We have breakfast, they brush their teeth then we do art activities in the morning. On nice days they play outside. The children have their lunches and sleeps at different times depending on the routine they have at home.

What are the best and worst things about being a childminder?

The most important thing for me is that I can be at home with my own child. It's good for



her too because it gives her a family atmosphere and social experience. On Saturdays and Sundays she always asks when the others are coming!

The worst thing is probably in the winter when I'm at home all day with the children, can't go out and don't see any other adults! Places like the Dovecote Kiddie Club and Cuddesdon Corner are really important so that I can get out and meet other people. There's a lot of paperwork too!

How do you get your customers?

Mainly through word of mouth, but OXCIS

(Oxfordshire Children's Information Service) also have a list of registered childminders and sometimes I get enquiries through that.

What advice would you give to someone who's thinking of becoming a childminder?

It's a good job to do if you want to be at home with your child. I would say it's really important to keep in touch with other childminders so you don't get too isolated.

You can contact Agata on 07874187704

Need help giving up smoking?



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**FREE advice and support
in Oxfordshire
for smokers who want to quit
0845 40 80 300**

Oxfordshire Smoking Advice Service
Supporting people through the process of quitting



Big gains for Blackbird Leys

An innovative approach to learning helped pupils at Pegasus School and gave local business people the chance to escape from their offices for a day.



MORE THAN 60 employees from Grant Thornton UK LLP and Midcounties Cooperative in Oxford ditched their day jobs to visit Pegasus School in Blackbird Leys and help change the lives of 445 pupils.

They took part in Give and Gain Day, the UK's day of action for employee volunteers, organised by Business in the Community.

Sponsored by Eversheds LLP, Give and Gain Day 2010 is dedicated to getting thousands of employees out of the office, store or factory to volunteer their time in their local community. This year over 6,000 employees from 213 organisations volunteered their time to help communities across the UK, injecting £1 million man-hours into

community projects.

Employee volunteers from Midcounties Cooperative and Grant Thornton, worked with Pegasus staff and Science Oxford to rejuvenate the school grounds clearing weeds and tidying the entrance area and the school allotments, as well as potting plants and shrubs. They also helped prolong the life of sapling trees that the children planted two years ago, planted up the school allotment with shallots and onions, and developed fun science lessons launching water rockets and designing egg carriers.

Head teacher Jill Hudson said: "It is fantastic that Midcounties Cooperative and Grant Thornton UK LLP are dedicating their time to help organisations like ours, on a regular basis. We are all part of the same community, and Give and Gain Day shows just how powerful it is when we work together. Everyone involved benefits from this innovative approach to active learning."

Midcounties Cooperative and Grant Thornton UK LLP provide regular volunteers and support for Pegasus School. Both organisations provided materials and equipment for the Give and Gain day, free of charge.

Bridget Holligan, Head of Learning for Science Oxford said: "Our work is about taking science into the classroom making it accessible for everyone. It is a great way to get children involved with science and they are having fun while they are learning"

British Grand Prix Special

THE THRILL OF THE RACE

Leys News was lucky enough to have our very own motorsport correspondent Kev Dyer among the press pack at this year's British Grand Prix at Silverstone. Here, Kev gives us his take on the F1 action and, having worked in motorsport for more than 20 years, tells us how it felt to be reporting on the race this year rather than providing support for a team.

WELL I HAVE been to countless race events during my motorsport career, and until recently I would have been getting my hands dirty preparing or repairing cars for teams. This year however things were a bit different at the British Grand Prix and I got to soak up the action from a different perspective.

Previous years would have found me turning up at the circuit at the crack of dawn along with all the other hands on workers ready for a day of wielding tools to make sure the cars are ready for the grid.

Although I have been a freelance journalist for a few years now, my main involvement in motorsport has been working as everything from technician through to manager on the manufacturing and maintenance side of the industry.

At this event I was in attendance in my second motorsport life as a freelance journalist. I have to admit that I did relish the thought of swanning around and schmoozing with the great and the good of the auto racing world and anticipated the weekend



being pretty laid back and easy. I was looking forward to champagne receptions and soaking up the ambience, because as every self respecting technician or mechanic knows, the PRs and journos have an easy life, I had set myself up for a rude awakening!

Once inside the media centre it soon became apparent how wrong I was and the fact that everybody had already been there for hours before me scuppered my theory

that the media are a bunch of slackers who roll in to work for a leisurely breakfast nursing a hangover.

I expected to see various hacks, cameramen and pretty PR girls swanning around sipping cappuccinos, air kissing and calling each other darling but the reality was that the media centre was a hive of bustling feverish activity with correspondents battling to meet daily and sometimes hourly deadlines for their various publications. Whereas I had the luxury of a few days grace as I generally write features and columns for both Leys News and The Oxford Mail. This means I have lengthier deadlines and more time to prepare my copy.

From the minute I swiped my pass to check in and went to pick up the press pack I soon became aware that the media operation was as slick and well oiled as the cars on the grid.

It was clear that many people must have worked late into the night if not through it in order to provide press packs, cuttings and every other piece of information that we could possibly need.

The press team also made sure that every journalist was allocated desk space and Internet access so that we could work smoothly throughout the weekend.

We were well looked after and provided with a wealth of information about every

aspect of the Grand Prix. It was obvious that a huge amount of preparation and forethought had gone into the planning of the media operation for this event, unlike my usual race weekend experiences working hands on for teams. These are generally a blend of organised chaos and fire fighting! Because of the nature of F1 with last minute upgrades and eleventh hour changes teams depend on individual expertise and commitment as well as team effort to wrest a favourable result from what appears to the outside world to be random chaos.

Obviously the media aspect of the event has to be planned with precision and put in place a long time in advance in order for everything to run smoothly. Although I enjoy the adrenalin rush of the race team, working in a pre planned environment made a refreshing change and as a first timer in the media centre I was really impressed.

As my career is in transition from the spanners to the keyboard, it was very enlightening to see that the working environment that I am now becoming part of is no where near as easy as I thought it was going to be. It's highly efficient and well run but just as challenging and just as much hard work, but organised and run by people who are equally as specialised and efficient in their roles as any race team.



Crowds flock to Silverstone for 60th anniversary

FOR THE MANY thousands of fans that flocked to Silverstone this year, the British grand prix was arguably the most important race on the 2010 f1 calendar. After all it is sixty years since the first FIA sanctioned championship race was held here and with a new exciting circuit layout fans and drivers alike were looking forward to discovering what difference the changes would make to the racing. The weather was fantastic which gave a holiday feel to the event and with the recent performance of McLaren there was also the prospect of a British driver winning the event.

Approaching the circuit from the media car park was quite an experience with helicopters flying in low from all directions and thousands of people thronging towards the turnstiles, it was like a cross between the opening scene from a Vietnam movie and Glastonbury

festival. The outer perimeter of the circuit was a mass off mobile catering units, merchandise stalls and various forms of entertainment including bungee jumping. Walking through the paddock towards the media centre was the usual mass of people including top end motorsport hierarchy, various celebrities, mechanics and hundreds of fans who had paid extra for paddock passes in order to rub shoulders with their heroes.

The race itself was eventful and the start was eagerly anticipated after the red bull qualifying controversy. Poetic justice was the order of the day with the aggrieved Webber taking the lead and with some highly efficient pit stop strategy romping to a well deserved win.

Our local Oxfordshire teams had varying fortunes with Williams faring the better of the

two. Both of the Grove based drivers finished in the points with Rubens Barrichello achieving his second top five position in a row.

The Brazilian had a great start taking some positions on the first lap.

Nico Hulkenburg tried a different strategy by staying out longer on the option tyres during the first stint; he finished tenth in the last points paying position.

Technical director Sam Michael said, "All of the aero upgrades worked well on both cars, we now need to maintain that progress".

Unfortunately our other local team, Renault didn't do quite as well.

Robert Kubica started well, gaining quite a few places on his first lap. Fernando Alonso, who cut the corner to pass him, then overtook him in questionable style.

Before a steward's decision could be

reached regarding the incident with Fernando however, Kubica was forced to retire with a broken drive shaft.

Vitaly Petrov had quite good speed on the day gaining three positions on lap one despite both Renaults suffering from a lack of pace during practise and qualifying. The Russian then suffered a puncture after a safety car period, finally coming home in 13th place.

Team principal Eric Boullier said, "We now have to bounce back and find more speed because we struggled for overall pace this weekend, we also saw today how close the fight is with Mercedes and we need to work hard to get back ahead of them".

The next round of the FIA Formula One championship is at Hockenheim in Germany on 25 July 2010.

What's on in the Summer

A round up of fun events and activities for children, young people and adults in August and early September. For more listings see our regular What's On section on page 15

The Leys CDI Young people too

Summer is here, and staff members at The Leys CDI (Community Development Initiative) are ready for it! Report by Naomi Abitabile

NOT ONLY ARE the CDI running their usual fun packed youth club with activities such as, photography, cooking, ice skating, street and break dance, football, pool and table tennis tournaments, but this year, thanks to the youngsters themselves, expressing what they wanted to achieve, they have been fortunate enough to receive funding from the BIG GIVE a lottery based fund.

With this funding the young people have devised a new community project called YP2 (Young People Too). Its main priority is that the decision making is done by the young people and it's an opportunity for them to obtain life skills.

They will go through training such as project management, coaching and mentoring and as well as many other activities, including: Film Production, DJ workshop,



Cooking at the Leys Youth Club, one many of the activities on offer.

Journalism, Driving Lessons, T-Shirt design, Drumming Lessons.

Further details about The YP2 Project can be obtained by visiting the Blackbird Leys

Community Centre and asking to speak any member of staff. And the good news is that the YP2 project is already up and running and ready for you to get involved.

Blackbird Leys Youth Centre Summer Activities

Four weeks of action from Monday 2 to Friday 27 August

football tournament monday 2	pool tournament thurs 5
swimming hinksey fri 6	film day mon 9
coral reef tues 10	
ice skating tues 24	riverside centre tues 17 & wed 18
outdoor activity days at youlbury 11 & 12	picnic mon 23

Trips

- London Wed 4
- Warwick Castle Wed 25
- Thorpe Park Fri 27

For more information please contact Gillian Elliott on 01865 772 886

The Elder Stubbs Festival

SET on the Elder Stubbs allotment site, this celebrated Oxford event boasts a diverse array of attractions from performing arts and workshops to stalls, speakers, children's activities and the vegetable show.

Around 50 different stallholders share information about local groups and organisations, sell home-made goods, run an activity or vend an assortment of world cuisines.

This year will see the legendary Hawkwind guitarist Huw Lloyd-Langton make his 14th appearance at the festival.

The festival, held by Restore and the Elder Stubbs Charity, attracts more than 3,000 people each year.

Elder Stubbs Festival
Saturday 21 August 2010, 12–5pm
£1 entry, children free.
Elder Stubbs Allotments, Rymers Lane, Oxford OX4 3LB.

Diary dates

AUGUST

SUNDAY 1
Best Of The Fest
Screenings of all films made during the Summerscreen Film Festival. 4.00-5.30pm, FREE. Phoenix Picturehouse
www.ofvm.org/summerscreen
☎ 07795 635913

TUESDAY 3
Dr Death & The Medicine Show
Join the time travelling 'Dr Death' to see if he can cure you! £5, suitable for 7yrs onwards. 11am, 2pm at Science Oxford Live, St Clements, OX4 1BD.
www.scienceoxfordlive.com
info@scienceoxford.com
☎ 01865 810000

WEDNESDAY 4
Space Race
Stories and crafts at the Blackbird Leys Library. 2.30-3.30pm
See page 12 for details.

THURSDAY 5
Gardening Club for the over 55s
Talk with slides by Stuart Mabbutt, 2pm. £2. The Clockhouse, Long Ground, Greater Leys. ☎ 01865 395908

FRIDAY 6 – SUNDAY 8
The Knights of Royal England
Jousting event incl. archery and falconry. £10.30/£7.70 conc/£5 child. ☎ 0800 8496500
www.blenheimpalace.com
Blenheim Palace, Woodstock.

SATURDAY 7
Cagleys Swap Shop

10.30am–12.30pm.
The Barn, Nightingale Avenue, Greater Leys.
For further details text Moe Scholl on 07879 044144

WEDNESDAY 11
Outdoor Baby & Toddler Kangaroo Playgroup
Natural parenting philosophy; sandpit; yurt; picnic lunch. 10am-1pm, £1. Barracks Lane Community Garden, Barracks Lane, off Glanville Road, Oxford; ☎ 01865 249450.

SATURDAY 14
Gardening Club for the over 55s
Visit to Kestrel Crescent allotments for summer barbecue. The Clockhouse, Long Ground, Greater Leys ☎ 01865 395908

The Great Plant Picnic
1–4pm, £3.50, children FREE. University of Oxford Botanic Garden.
www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk
☎ 01865 286690

Bread Day
Learn how to make breads the world over. 11.00am–5.00pm. Barracks Lane Community Garden, Barracks Lane, off Glanville Road, Oxford; www.barrackslanegarden.org.uk stuart@oxfordshire.gov.uk ☎ 01865 249450.

MONDAY 16
Pink tea party!
Wear pink, try and help support charity Breast Cancer Care. 2.00–4.00pm. The Clockhouse, Long Ground, Greater Leys. ☎ 01865 395908

WEDNESDAY 18
Lunar Landing
Stories and crafts at BBL Library 2.30-3.30pm.
See page 12 for details.

FRIDAY 20 – SUNDAY 22
80s Rewind Festival
Annual event staging and celebrating the best of 1980s music. This year you can see Boy George, Heaven 17, Marc Almond, Odyssey, Level 42, Altered Images and Bjorn Again amongst many others. Temple Island Meadows, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire www.rewindfestival.com

SATURDAY 21
Holy Family Fun Day
Includes barbecue, games, refreshments, table-top sales (£5 per table). 2.30pm–5.00pm Church of the Holy Family, Cuddesdon Way.

Elder Stubbs Festival.
12–5pm, £1
Elder Stubbs Allotments, Rymers Lane, OX4 3LB.

TUESDAY 24
Museum Summer Activities
Family Friendly Drop-In Help yourself to trails and puzzles in the Museum this summer. 12–5pm, FREE. Museum of the History of Science (www.mhs.ox.ac.uk), Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3AZ. ☎ 01865 277280

THURSDAY 26 – SUNDAY 30
The Towersey Music Festival
Annual festival of folk, world music and traditional dance near Oxford. Also dance, art, spectacle, magic & colour. www.towerseyfestival.com

Towersey village, Oxon.

FRIDAY 27
Cuddesdon Corner end of Summer Celebration
Cuddesdon Corner Children's Centre. For details see advert on page 11.

SATURDAY 28
Rhyme Time for the under fives
BBL library 10.30am
For details see page 12

SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY 4 & SUNDAY 5
Arcane Festival
Weekend of bands and sound systems. Includes: Levi Roots, Makating, The Mighty Redux, Queen Of Clubs Cabaret. City Farm, Eynsham OX29 4EG See website for more info: www.arcane-festival.com

MONDAY 6 & TUESDAY 7
St Giles Fair
Oxford centre's annual funfair. St Giles, Oxford.

SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER



Leys Fair
Come to Blackbird Leys' annual fair held at Blackbird Leys Park and Leisure Centre. FREE 12noon–5.30pm

StreetSports Summer Programme

Oxford City Council has a great StreetSports programme lined up this summer to help keep young people active.

THE summer programme starts on Monday 26 July and runs through until 27 August. There is a great range of activities on offer, including Skater Hockey, Street Soccer, Basketball, Touch Rugby and Dodgeball. All activities are free of charge.

Sports Development staff supervise the activities and all equipment is provided. Participants just need to bring food, water and sun protection.

Councillor Mark Lygo, Board Member of Sport, Play and Schools Liaison says: "This is a great opportunity for young people in the city to mix with people from other schools

and areas.

"The programme was very popular last year with 1600 attendances and it will no doubt be a great success this year too."

Councillor Bob Timbs, Board Member for Leisure, says: "We're really pleased to offer this great programme of activities over the summer and hope the programme increases interest and participation in sport."

A free summer tournament will also be held at Cowley Marsh on Sunday 29 August at 2pm to 5pm.

For more information about how to take part in the summer activities or the summer tournaments call 01865 252692 or email phejones@oxford.gov.uk

StreetSports Sessions

StreetSports sessions are for eight to 18-year-olds and they are being held at street sports cages across the city from 2.00pm – 4.30pm and 6.00pm – 8.00pm.

Mondays: Wood Farm, Rose Hill
Tuesdays: Regal, Barton
Wednesdays: Northway, Fry's Hill
Thursdays: Barton, Wood Farm
Fridays: Hollow Way, Cutteslowe

Registration and parent or guardian consent will be required to be completed for the first session.

Dexter Blackstock Soccer School

WITH Pre-season well on it's way, coaches at DBSS are feeling refreshed, enthusiastic and ready to kick off this year's summer soccer school.

With football coaches from Chelsea, Reading and Oxford United on the look out, are you ready to improve your skills? And show off your talent? If so, sign up and book your place on the course now! Courses are run at St Gregory The Great Secondary School, on 16 – 20 August, from 9.00am – 3.00pm. For boys and girls of all abilities, from 4 to 16 years.

For more info and bookings see www.dexterblackstocksoccerschool.com or call 07794 800804

Let's have a Street Party

YOU DON'T HAVE to wait until another Jubilee (or thankfully England winning the World Cup!) to have a street party, residents in The Leys and the rest of Oxford are having parties every year.

The parties are a chance to have fun, put on games for the kids, share food and drink, and to get to know neighbours better.

Last year there were a couple of street parties in The Leys and this year there could be more if you and other people on your street might want one.

It's now easier than ever before to have a street party. You do not need to have any insurance, and if your street needs to be closed for traffic this can be arranged for free easily with the City Council, though they do need six weeks notice. As long as your street is not on a bus route or main thoroughfare there should not be a problem.

Bristol based Charity Streets



Alive support street parties all round the country. They have an associate worker in Barton, Alan Foulkes who is there to answer any question you might want to ask about putting on your own street party and can support residents to get the planning of the parties started. Alan can be contacted on 07722 004150.

The Charity Oxford Streets for

People has been encouraging and supporting residents throughout Oxford to have street parties over the last couple of years, and their website has lots of useful information and advice on how residents can put on their own party.

Visit www.oxstreets.org.uk, and www.streetsalive.org.uk for more information.

Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre

Tuesday 27 July
09:00 – 12:00 Badminton & Table Tennis
13:00 – 15:00 Football

Wednesday 28 July
09:00 – 12:00 Bouncy Fun
13:00 – 15:00 Mixed Sports

Thursday 29 July
09:00 – 12:00 Cricket
13:00 – 15:00 Cricket

Friday 30 July
09:00 – 12:00 Bouncy Fun
13:00 – 15:00 Football

Monday 2 August
09:00 – 12:00 Bouncy Fun
13:00 – 15:00 Basketball

Tuesday 3 August
09:00 – 12:00 Badminton & Table Tennis
13:00 – 15:00 Football

Wednesday 4 August
09:00 – 12:00 Bouncy Fun
13:00 – 15:00 Mixed Sports

Thursday 5 August
09:00 – 12:00 Multi Skills Games
13:00 – 15:00 Multi Skills Games

Friday 6 August
09:00 – 12:00 Bouncy Fun
13:00 – 15:00 Football
Monday 9 August
09:00 – 12:00 Bouncy Fun
13:00 – 15:00 Basketball

Activities for children

Summer Activities Prices
£2.50 per session
£4.00 per day
£17.50 for the week

Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre
Pegasus Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6JL

Tuesday 10 August
09:00 – 12:00 Badminton & Table Tennis
13:00 – 15:00 Football

Wednesday 11 August
09:00 – 12:00 Bouncy Fun
13:00 – 15:00 Mixed Sports

Thursday 12 August
09:00 – 12:00 Multi Skills Games
13:00 – 15:00 Multi Skills Games

Friday 13 August
09:00 – 12:00 Bouncy Fun
13:00 – 15:00 Football

Monday 16 August
09:00 – 12:00 Bouncy Fun
13:00 – 15:00 Basketball

Tuesday 10 August
09:00 – 12:00 Badminton & Table Tennis
13:00 – 15:00 Football

Wednesday 18 August
09:00 – 12:00 Bouncy Fun
13:00 – 15:00 Mixed Sports

Thursday 19 August
09:00 – 12:00 Netball
13:00 – 15:00 Netball

Friday 20 August
09:00 – 12:00 Bouncy Fun
13:00 – 15:00 Football

Monday 23 August
09:00 – 12:00 Bouncy Fun
13:00 – 15:00 Basketball

Tuesday 24 August
09:00 – 12:00 Badminton & Table Tennis
13:00 – 15:00 Football

Wednesday 25 August
09:00 – 12:00 Bouncy Fun
13:00 – 15:00 Mixed Sports

Thursday 26 August
09:00 – 12:00 Volleyball
13:00 – 15:00 Volleyball

Friday 27 August
09:00 – 12:00 Bouncy Fun
13:00 – 15:00 Football



Children's Page

Many thanks to
DW Contractors for
sponsoring this page.



Mr Negen Nove's Reward

PART FIVE

By Anna Pavelin

The story so far:

I had been lucky enough to get nine wishes but I kept using them in silly ways, finally I wished for a brand new phone, surely nothing could go wrong with that...



I picked it up and turned it over, marvelling at this miracle. Just then Charlie walked passed the the open door and looked at me. "Whose phone is that?" She asked "Mine, not that it's any of your business" I replied. "Did Mum get you that?" She asked "No" I said and shut my door. Oh no, why didn't I shut the door first?

The next thing I heard was Charlie, who obviously didn't believe me, shouting down the stairs "How come he's got a mobile phone and not me and it isn't even his birthday or anything?" I suddenly realised this was not going to be as simple as I'd hoped. I hadn't thought that with a physical object you need a story of how you got it, and I couldn't think of anything believable, I didn't even have the fact of everyone liking me any more which had sort of shielded me from being in trouble during the past week...

I didn't try to deny I had the phone because otherwise I'd always have to hide it, and having a phone that you had to keep hidden and turned off isn't very useful is it? "Where did you get it?" Mum asked me. First I tried to say I'd bought it from a shop but that fell through when she asked nosey questions about where, and how much and she knew I only had £14 in savings so that didn't work. So I said I'd bought it from a friend, but she wanted to know which friend so she could phone their Mum because she could tell there was something I was hiding about the whole story. Then she sent me to my room and told me not to come down until I was ready to tell the truth.

While I was upstairs I could hear her talking with Dad. They thought I'd stolen it and Mum was getting upset.

They started arguing and blaming each other. I felt bad, I hadn't even got the phone out of the box and already I was regretting wishing for it. In fact I was beginning to regret finding the bus-pass and getting the wishes at all.

Finally I knew what I had to do. Without even taking the phone out the box I said, fairly quietly so Charlie didn't hear "I wish my family would completely forget about the phone".

I looked down at my duvet and thought it hadn't worked because the phone was still there. Then I realised my parents weren't arguing any more and I remembered my exact words. I hadn't asked for the phone to vanish, only that they would forget about it. To make sure I went downstairs and spoke to my Dad. He was completely fine and didn't mention the phone at all, neither did Mum, she just reminded me we were going shopping tomorrow to get me some new school trousers.

I kept the phone hidden under my bed for a couple of days, but then I decided to get rid of it because I kept worrying about Mum finding it and getting angry again, and I couldn't really think of a good story as to how I'd come by it. I took it to school on Monday morning, still not sure what to do about it. After school instead of going straight back to Blackbird Leys I walked down the Cowley road, having a vague idea I'd try and sell it. By the time I got to Tesco's I realised that I couldn't very easily sell it because who would buy a brand new phone from a school kid, you must admit it looked a bit suspicious, I couldn't very well go up to members of the public and say "d'you want to buy a phone?" So in the end I just handed it to a Big Issue seller standing outside Tesco's and said "this is for you". He looked very surprised but I walked away quickly.

If you've been keeping track you'll realise I now only had one wish left. Since I had totally screwed up all the wishes so far, I decided I needed advice. There was only one person I could talk to so I decided to pay him a visit and ask him how I could avoid messing up my last wish... Mr Negen Nove.

To be continued...



35th Oxford Scout Group meetings

Beaver Scouts: Tues, 5-6pm. Boys & Girls, six to eight yrs old.
Cub Scouts: Tues, 6.30-8.00pm. Boys & girls, aged 8 to 10.5 yrs old.
Scouts: Thurs, 7pm-8.30pm. Girls & boys aged 10.5 to 14 yrs old.
You can email the 35th Oxford Scouts on: duncan@35thoxford.com

Leys Scouts' scavenger hunt

A group of seven scouts from Blackbird Leys took part in this year's Shelterbox Scavenger Hunt Challenge in London.

THE SCAVENGER HUNT was part of the tenth birthday celebrations for the Shelterbox charity, which is the organisation that sends out emergency aid boxes, which contain everything that a family will need to survive. The kits contain a ten person tent, cooker, water treatment tablets, blankets, children's kits and lots more to help people after they have lost everything through natural and manmade disasters.

Duncan Bowler Group Scout Leader 35th Oxford, said that the Scouts from Blackbird Leys were among 500 taking part from across the country: "To date the charity has helped families in 75 countries which is a huge achievement. It was great to be able to have a look at the contents of the boxes and wonder how everything fits in the green box. The Scouts carried around two Shelter Boxes as part of the scavenger hunt taking photos of interesting places and people with their Shelterbox."

Duncan added: "We followed a route around different parts of London from The Albert Hall to Kensington Palace Gardens and Hyde Park hunting for different photos and clues and filling in the question sheet as we went. There were many highlights to the day including having two police men in the boxes, taking the box in a revolving door and having a photo taken outside Baden Powell House."

The 35th Oxford Scouts are looking forward to finishing their Shelterbox Challenge in December and raising some money to help send a box to some where in the world to help continue the charity's work.



THANKS to Keenan Morris, aged 11, of Littlemore for sending in this fantastic picture!



COMPETITION!

This month we have The Usborne Nature Sticker Book to give away. It is packed with information, pictures and stickers of a huge variety of trees, birds and flowers and is a great way to find out more about your local natural environment.

To be in with a chance of winning, tell what the photo in this issue of Leys News taken by Pete Dalton is of (Photo of the month, page 5):
Is it: a. The Spar Shop; or b. The Leys News Office; or is it c. The Blackbird Leys Adventure Walk?

Please fill in the form below and send it to us to arrive no later than August 13.

Your answer:.....

Name: Age:.....

Parent or guardian:.....

Phone:.....

Address:

Helping hand for parents

Monika Celebi works for the Oxford Parent Infant Project, a service which aims to help parents and their babies through difficult times. Report by Katie Chester

HAVING A BABY is not always easy and often we as parents struggle to understand how and what babies communicate, so we can keep them happy more of the time.

Sometimes a traumatic birth experience can cast a shadow over the early days, weeks and months, and a time which is supposed to be happy can turn into an emotional roller coaster. Becoming depressed in the first year after the birth is more common than we tend to think. Fathers can get depressed too.

It is important to find sources of support, yet often parents are embarrassed to tell friends and family that not all is well. Then it may be easier to talk to someone from outside one's close social circle, such as a counsellor, who specialises in helping parents and their babies.

Monika, who has been working with parents and babies for a long time, sees mothers, fathers and their babies either as a one off, or for a series of meetings to help them talk through their often confusing feelings.

Monika also uses VIG (video interaction

guidance). With the parents' permission she films them and their babies, and then together they look at the film, especially those moments when things are going well and work out what it is that makes those times a good experience.

This way parents are empowered, because they can see with their own eyes when and how they are 'getting it right', and so they learn to communicate better with their babies. At the end parents receive a DVD with those good moments to keep.

Parents' feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and they all said they learned a lot about their parenting style and about their babies.

The service provided by the Oxford Parent Infant Project (OXPIP) is free for Leys residents, who are either expecting a baby or have a baby up to the age of two. They can refer themselves by ringing Monika Celebi on 07879 674425 or ask their health visitor or GP to make the initial contact. All enquiries are treated in confidentiality.

Cuddesdon Corner update BY KATIE CHESTER

THE HEALTH AND SAFETY WEEK at Cuddesdon Corner was a great success, with over 90 people calling in to visit the health bus and ambulance. If you missed it there are some Home Safety Starter packs available from Cuddesdon Corner – just drop in to pick yours up.

On Monday 12 July the walking map was launched with a family walk around the Leys and a picnic. You can pick up your free copy of the map from Cuddesdon Corner.

Leys Counsellor Val Smith is currently having a drop in session at Cuddesdon Corner on

the second Tuesday of each month. She said: "The Children's Centre does all it can to try and bring services to the Centre - rather than families having to go out and find them. I am delighted to do my surgery in the Centre - the more people we meet, the more people we can help. I am more than happy to discuss all issues and take cases forward."

Cuddesdon corner will be open every day over the summer holidays – and look out for special activities for Dads!

Leys Fashion

Travelling light HOLIDAY FASHION REPORT BY SIAN JONES



Zanzibar Dress
£28, by
Accessorize

for the petite or flowy ones for the tummy conscious, as well as strappy, halter or boob tube. There is a fantastic range across the whole high street so you won't be short of choice.

The ultimate holiday dress however is the bandeau dress. They work beautifully as a stylish beach cover up but once belted and teamed with wedges are more than glam enough for the hotel bar. In the day keep it simple with sandals and sunnies, then really dress it up at night. Mix and match your bikinis - you'll take less but look like you have more. Clash colours and mix patterned tops with plain bottoms or vice versa.

Wedges are more versatile than normal heeled shoes as they can be worn with casual outfits for a cute daytime look as well as in the evening with something dressier. You could try a caged or gladiator style wedge to be really on trend. New Look, as always, has a great range of shoes and wedges. As far as flats go, get some bejewelled flip flops.

Take only a few standard pieces for you bottom half. For example some easy and effortless denim cuts offs can be worn several times with a selection of different tops. The same can be said for a pretty gypsy skirt or simple linen trousers. Pre planning your outfits always saves loads of room as you avoid taking things you don't need. *Enjoy your hols!*

PACK SMART for your holiday, whether you are clubbing in Kos or chilling in the Caribbean, make sure you make the most of the room in your suitcase.

The key to packing light is to take things that are versatile. You will need simple but stylish items that can be worn day or night and can be easily accessorised, hello maxi dress! The maxi is a key holiday item and fortunately there is a huge variety of patterns and colours to choose from. There are fitted ones



SUMMER 2010

The Leys Children's Centre - Cuddesdon Corner

61-63 Cuddesdon Way, Blackbird Leys OX4 6SB
01865 773263

Monday 26 July to Friday 3 September



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<u>Baby Stay and Play</u> (for dads, mums and carers) 1.00 pm – 3.00pm	<u>Stay and Play</u> (lunch available for a small fee) 11.00 am – 2.00 pm	<u>Cuddesdon Kids Creative</u> 4, 11, 18 and 25 August 9.30 am – 11.30 am <u>Midwife Clinic and Breastfeeding Café</u> For post natal checks, support and advice phone 01865 221696 for an appointment 12.30 pm – 2.30 pm	<u>Morning Stay and Play</u> 9.30 am – 12.00 pm	<u>Stay and Play</u> (lunch available for a small fee) 11.00 am – 2.00 pm <u>Friday 27 August</u> End of Summer Celebration 11.00 am – 2.00 pm BBQ Bouncy Castle Bubble Man Face Painting	<u>Dads Zone</u> (breakfast available for a small fee) 10.00am – 1.30pm Contact Conroy Harris 0777 540 7524 <u>24 July</u> Sounds like Summer <u>31 July</u> Storytelling Day <u>7 August</u> Forest Craft (part 1) <u>14 August</u> Drumming workshop <u>21 August</u> Without Walls day out <u>28 August</u> Forest Craft (part 2)
<u>Leys Health Centre</u> <u>Infant Feeding Talks</u> For pregnant women 9.30 am – 10.30 am To book an appointment contact Camille Kalaja on 01865 788688					

Outreach, parent and inclusion workers are available during the summer and also help with child care advice. For more information please contact Valerie on 01865 779615

www.theleyschildrenscentre.org



Blackbird Leys Library

Summer time at the library

Looking for something to keep the children busy over the summer holidays? Why not visit the local library?

BY KATIE CHESTER

LOOKING for something to keep the children busy over the summer holidays? Why not visit the local library? There's a whole world of books for them to explore and the good news is it's free to join, for the under fives there are no fines for overdue or damaged books, and it's also free for children to reserve books, which comes in really handy for homework projects. Once you've joined any library in Oxfordshire you're free to borrow or return books to any other branch as well.

Did you know that you can collect your Bookstart packs from the library too? There's a free Bookstart bag for 18 – 30

month olds which contains books to read, a colouring book and crayons as well as info for parents, and for 36 – 47 month olds there's a treasure chest full of more book related goodies so if you've missed these packs, get down to the library to pick yours up.

The library also has the Bookstart Crawl for children four years and under who can collect stickers for each book they borrow from the library.

FOR THE UNDER FIVES:

The library has rhyme time at 10.30am on the following Saturdays: 31 July, 28 August and 25 September.

Space Hop

THIS SUMMER the library is hosting the Spacehop Summer Reading Challenge for young readers. Their mission is to complete six or more books over the summer holiday, collecting stickers which they can add to their free wall poster. Watch out for the Space Katz though!

As part of the Space Hop there will be themed story time events going on throughout the holidays for four to eight year olds:

Stories and crafts
2.30-3.30pm

Lunar Landing
Wednesday 18 August
Stories and crafts
2.30-3.30pm

Free tickets for storytimes are available from the library, and parents are required to stay with their children. There will also be a Medal ceremony on Saturday 25 September at 10am for those children who have successfully completed the summer Space Hop reading challenge.

Space Race
Wednesday 4 August

Outstanding success for mums from the Leys



TWO STUDENTS FROM BLACKBIRD LEYS achieved outstanding success after being sponsored to study masters degrees at Oxford Brookes University. Ines Kretzschmar and Tanya Prescott are both mums who juggled work, children and studying to gain distinctions.

News from BLITZ

Blitz your IT skills!

REPORT BY
TRIO WATSON

THE BLITZ IT HUB at the Blackbird Leys Community Centre hosts computer classes for complete beginners and intermediate computer users, and provides open access to the computers three days a week as well, all for free. I caught up with Yousaf, Lily, Carol and Margaret at the end of a busy intermediate class. The students were thrilled about the class they had just attended, and soon I was infected by their enthusiasm, too.

Margaret enjoyed the friendly and relaxed atmosphere: "This is the ideal start for someone who's not used to using a computer. We're all in our 60s here. There's no feeling intimidated by the 'whizz kids'. Working in a class with others is more fun, and easier. The classes are easier than I was expecting." Yousaf added: "You learn a lot of things you've never seen. Two hours passes so quickly".

Carol feels the course has improved her confidence with computers enormously. "I would never have believed I could absorb as much as I have. It's easy because of how it's taught. It's not what I expected, but better."

What were their favourite aspects of the IT class? "It's sociable! We have a tea break and chat about aspects of the course. We're all in the same boat," grinned Lily. "There's no exam." "I love sending and receiving email." "It's great having the computer explained."

So, no hesitation on recommending this course to others, then? "Oh, highly recommended! The course was really good. We just wish there were more of them!"



LEFT TO RIGHT: Students Alice (seated), Carol, Eileen, Jean (teaching assistant), Carol, Chris, Margaret, Yousaf and Lily (front, seated)

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Informal courses for adults with little or no computer knowledge, Would you like to improve your computer skills?

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Enrol now for our Free courses starting in September
See below for contact information.



The Blackbird Leys IT Hub

Ring John on 01865 714492
or email blitzithub@yahoo.co.uk
for bookings and further details.

Or visit John during office hours at the Leys Community Centre, Blackbird Leys Road.



S & R CHILDS

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Arts and Culture Focus

A summer of Shakespeare



Creation Theatre Company's new production of **Romeo and Juliet** starring Amy Noble as Juliet and Patrick Myles as Romeo, runs at The Said Business School Amphitheatre until **September 4.**

David Parrish, Creation's Artistic and Executive Director, said: "I am delighted that 14 summers after Creation's very first production, Romeo and Juliet, at Magdalen College School, we are once more revisiting the same Shakespeare play in an exciting new production.

"Our first Romeo and Juliet was seen by 3500 people now 15 years later we expect to see Creation's total audience attendance pass the 350000 milestone during the year. Thanks to the huge success of our Twelfth Night last year plus the generosity of our supporters and Friends of Creation our finances are now much restored and we look forward to a very successful summer performing again in the wonderful rooftop setting at the Said Business School, which was such a popular venue with our audiences last year."

Box Office on 01865 766266, or buy tickets online at www.creationtheatre.co.uk.

The Spirit of Jimmy Cliff

Natty Mark Samuels reviews the Oxford Playhouse's production of **The Harder They Come.**

WHEREVER YOU ARE tonight Jimmy Cliff, performing or resting, I know you would have been proud, if you had stepped into the Oxford Playhouse, and Perry Henzell too.

The voices. So many good voices. Like the voice of Marlon King, who played Brother Pedro, a Rastaman and the voice of Matthew Henry, who played the main character.

Just to hear the voices was a blessing, then we got a full band too! Bass, drumkit, guitars and keyboards. Plus here and there throughout, we heard the Binghy drum.

When you hear his music like that, live and back to back, you marvel again, at the songwriting brilliance of Jimmy Cliff. What a sweet shower we got drenched in! The Harder They Come, You Can Get It If You Really

Want It and my two favourites, Sitting In Limbo and Many Rivers To Cross. Desmond Dekker too, singing Shanty Town (007). Then along came Toots, telling us that Pressure Drop. We got drenched, happily.

Good to see the great veteran, Victor Romero, who played Preacher, alongside the newer star, Matthew Henry, in the leading role.

The stage tonight was saturated with talent, overflowing with it. They brought this saga of dream and courage and told it wonderfully. The whole word appreciates a great storyteller. We were blessed with a stage full of them. Like Joy Mack, who played Miss Daisy, mother of Ivan and Alana Leslie, his girlfriend.

Wherever you are tonight Jimmy Cliff, we got wrapped up in your spirit and celebrated it.

Sing-a-long treat for ABBA fans!

THE concert event ABBA fans have been waiting for, the Swedish super-group's greatest hits performed live with on screen lyrics so everyone can join in, will be back in Oxford next February.

The producers of the international smash hit Sing-a-long-a Sound of Music present another fun packed interactive evening, this time featuring the classic sound of ABBA and featuring all the elements of a sing-a-long-a spectacular.

SING-A-LONG-A ABBA is the

perfect night out for anyone from hen parties to family groups, from office outings to anyone who has strutted their stuff to ABBA on the dance floor! So get out your blue eye shadow, put your platform boots on, warm up your vocal chords and hurry down to have the time of your life at the smash hit sensation that is Sing-a-long-a ABBA

Tickets can be purchased from the New Theatre box office on George Street, by ringing 0844 847 1585 or by visiting www.newtheatreoxford.org.uk



Bubbling with entertainment, Bursting with creativity...

Pegasus opens on Saturday 4th September fizzing with new entertainment from round the world and round the corner for all ages. Come along and be amazed.

Website
www.pegasustheatre.org.uk

Box Office
01865 812 150

Pegasus

PET HATES

An occasional tirade by Alan Witton.

COLD CALLING

THERE USED TO be palmy days (I almost remember them myself) when if you wanted something, you went to the appropriate shop and bought it. If they didn't have it in stock, they ordered it. If it was too bulky or too high-value they might offer to deliver it. But it seems those days are gone forever.

Now it seems that it is for the trader to convince you that you need something, and for you to resist if you can. In the last few days I have had cold callers at my front door, on the phone, and on the Internet. Not to mention three or four leaflets that the postman puts through my door. They have included an offer of computer repairs, a free home security system and endless approaches from Indian and Chinese takeaways. Oh yes, and I had a couple of likely lads in a filthy Transit van, wanting to know if I had any large items that needed removing?

Yes, I have heard of the Telephone Preference Service and the Mailing Preference Service, and I am registered with both. Only problems are – the Telephone Preference Service needs to know the number and name of the firm that called you, and (surprise, surprise) when you dial 1471 you always get “We do not have the caller's number to return the call”. I wonder why?

And when it comes to the mountain of mailshots that comes through my front door, the Mailing Preference Service is less use than a chocolate teapot. There have been a few

minor victories. My internet security package eventually managed to jump on the firm that was sending me email adverts for viagra every time the clock struck. And I don't seem to be getting nearly as many spam emails as I used to. For spam read scam, and hopefully the perpetrators of these are now doing time for their crimes.

Perhaps one of these days those who live by cold calling will realise it is probably not the best way of selling something. Putting the customer's back up, repeatedly, is unlikely to be the high road to high profits. Of course some of these people conceal criminal intent. They have had plenty of time already to clean out the bank accounts of tens of thousands of people and retreat with their ill-gotten gains.

Having occasionally been on the other side of the fence, leafletting my estate, I can report that there is one reliable way to avoid canvassers. Buy a big dog and keep it permanently hungry. I once almost lost my fingers to something halfway between an Alsatian and a wolf!

There is a Latin proverb, “caveat emptor” – let the buyer beware. And it's still good advice. But nowadays, also beware if you receive an email from someone unknown, answer the phone or come to your front door. You can't put these modern means of communication into Latin, but the principle is still the same.



The Leys Buying Group Update

What can a Buying Group do for me?

REPORT BY TANYA PRESCOTT AND KATIE CHESTER

WITH HIGHER VAT on the way consumers are facing paying even higher prices. Isn't it about time you used the power of a buying group to pay less and make your money go further?

Individuals, families and small businesses can save a lot of money each year by joining a buying group. Local community groups and charities can even raise funds for their cause by joining.

In a recession people look to cut back on luxury items but they still have to buy essential household goods and services. Wouldn't you rather save money where you can so that you can have more of it to spend it on the things you really need or want?

Gas, electricity, home phone, broadband and mobile phones are just some of the items where large savings can be made.

Buying food, petrol, clothing and other household goods can even generate a cash-back that can further reduce the amount of your monthly household bill.

If you are interested in having a chat to see just how you can go about saving yourself money, call Tanya for free on 0800 5424893 or email her at: yousavingmoney@telecomplus.org.uk

BOILER SERVICING

Having your boiler serviced is an annual expense for many people. Would you like to cut the price by up to 40%? By booking in a block Leys residents can slash the cost as it saves the plumber money too. Interested?

Register your interest by emailing Katie Chester at kches2001@yahoo.com by 15 August.

Do you have a pet?

Are you interested in saving money on your pet food bills?



JEANNINE PARFITT is ready to negotiate with some top brands of cat and dog food so that we can buy them for the same price or less than the cheaper brands we currently get in the supermarkets. Jeannine wants to get an idea of how much animal food people currently buy. You can help her cut your pet food bills by answering the following questions:

- What pet(s) do you have?
- How much do you feed?
- What types of food do you feed?
- What brands/shops own do

you feed?

- Would you consider changing your pet's diet to a cheaper, higher quality pet food?

- If yes to the change, would you be prepared to reduce the amount of food that you feed to your pet, to compensate for the higher nutritional value of their food?

- Would you be prepared to feed a free sample of high quality pet food to your animal(s) to see if they like it?

Please email your answers to Jeannine Parfitt at oxpets@gmail.com

Tell your friends about the buying group too – the more people involved the more everybody stands to save.

Contact Details:

Pet Food: Jeannine Parfitt, *email oxpets@gmail.com*

Boiler Servicing: Katie Chester, *email kches2001@yahoo.com*

Gas, electricity, home phone, internet, mobile phone and cash back card: Tanya Prescott, *tel: 0800 5424893*

Classifieds

BUSINESS SERVICES

Does your business need a boost? Are you lost for words?

We offer a cost effective writing service for small businesses, and provide copywriting, press releases, web content and newsletters.For further information email mediabird@btinternet.com or call 07966 523662

TBAC Business Mentoring

Muddled over marketing? Struggling with Selling? Pondering over price? Need help with your business plan? TBAC can help - we offer continuous mentoring support to

anyone who wants to expand a small business.Contact: Louise Goldsack on 01865 893305 info@tbac.org.uk www.tbac.org.uk

Hampden House Business Centre

Serviced offices, virtual offices and meeting rooms available to help your business make the right impression. For viewings call Chris Williams on 01865 893200 chris@jennings.co.uk www.hampden-house.co.uk

ENTERTAINMENT

Ouch! - the band

Rock, soul and pop for a great party, wedding or

corporate event.If you're looking for great atmosphere, great music, a bit of a sing along and just a cracking night out you'll love the Ouch band. Contact: Charlie 07710 970992 www.ouchband.co.uk

ELECTRICIANS

Hawtin Electrical

Hawtin Electrical can offer you free estimates and advice complete with a friendly affordable service. Whether you are looking for a simple addition to your lighting or power needs, having troubles with your electrics, completely re-wiring your house or starting from scratch, then

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Reach new customers in your local area with a Leys News Classified ad.

To book your space ring John on 01865 711756

OXFORD IN TOP SIX FOR SPORT

Both Oxford and the county have achieved one of the highest increases of sporting participation across all local authorities and counties within England according to a Sport England survey.

In Oxford there are now 27 per cent of adults taking part in 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport or active recreation three days a week, which is a 6.3 per cent increase from 2005 when it was 20.7 per cent. This equates to approximately 10,000 more people taking part in regular physical activity and puts Oxford in the top six districts within England.

Within the County there has also been a significant increase of three per cent from 23.5 per cent to 26.5 per cent. This places Oxfordshire in the top two counties in England with the highest participation rate in moderate sport.

The Oxfordshire Sports Partnership, which is hosted by Oxford City Council, was set up in 2006 with the aim of getting more children and adults to take part in sport or active recreation after a decade of no increase in participation nationally.

What's on in the Leys

A quick guide to what's available locally. If you have a service or event you'd like to include, please ring 01865 711756.

ADVICE

Agnes Smith Advice Centre
Gives free independent and impartial advice. Drop-in sessions are in the centre on Mondays 2.00–4.00pm and Fridays 10.00am–12.00pm. Also in the Farmhouse on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10am–12pm. ☎ 01865 770206

CHILDREN

Baby Cafe: Cuddesdon Corner Family Centre, Fridays, 10.30am–12.30pm. www.thebabycafe.org ☎ Carole Roberts, 01865 788688

The Barn Youth Project
Session for ages 7–12 is on Mons 5.30–7.30pm. Weds is for young people aged 13–20, & runs from 7pm–9pm.

Blackbird Leys Youth Centre
Blackbird Leys Road. Variety of activities & advice for young people. ☎ 01865 772886.

Brownies: Thursdays, Holy Family Church Hall. Gill Manning, ☎ 01865 770959

Dovecote - Afterschool Club
Mondays – Thursdays, 3.15pm – 5.00pm, £1 per session. ☎ 01865 712299

Leys Kiddie Club: In the Dovecote Family Drop-in Room, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, 9.30am–2.30pm. £1. Price includes a hot drink and a soft drink for children.

Starlight Black Child Mixed Heritage Group provides a safe forum to explore issues of race and racism with other parents, while the children have fun playing and getting to know each other. ☎ 01865 776691

Maluchy: group for Polish speaking families with children ages 0–5. Saturdays, Cuddesdon Corner family centre. 9.45–11.15am ☎ 07874187704

Oxfordshire (The Rifles) Battalion Army Cadet Force
Sandy Lane West. Boys and Girls ages 13 to 18. Thursdays 7.30–9.30pm. ☎ 01869 259681

35th Oxford Scout Group
☎ Duncan Bowler, 0776 6293353 duncan@35thoxford.com [for details see page 10]

Rainbows: Girls aged 5 to 7. Fridays during term time, 5.30–6.30pm, at the Holy Family Church Hall on Cuddesdon Way. ☎ Laura Turner, 07787528120

EDUCATION

Able Centre
Free courses in Maths and English. ☎ Annette 776334

Blitz IT Courses
IT for beginners, internet, email, file management, PC maintenance and more. ☎ 01865 714492

Oxford Women's Training Scheme
☎ Helen McLuckie 550227 @ hmcluckie@ocuc.ac.uk

LEISURE

Irish dancing. Sacred Heart Hall. Weds & Thurs, 5pm.

Boxing training. Youth Centre at the Leys Linx, Blackbird Leys Rd. Tues & Thurs 7.30–9.00pm. ☎ 01865 715815.

BL Swimming Pool
Blackbird Leys Road. General swimming times are Mon & Fri 5.45–6.45pm, and Sat & Sun 11.15am–1.00pm. Thursdays, 12–1pm, parent and toddlers.

Saturdays and Sundays, 2.30–3.30pm, families only. ☎ 01865 467042.

Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre
● Bouncy fun for under 5s, Mon 10.30–12pm
● Body Conditioning, Mon 10–11am
● Tae Kwon Do, Tue 6–7pm
● Pilates Beginners, Tue 7–7.45pm
● Aerotone, Wed 6–7pm
● Tae kwon Do, Thu 5–6pm
● Circuit Training, Thu 7.05–7.55pm
● Boxercise, Fri 10–11am
● Step & Tone, Fri 6–7pm
All activites cost from £1.20

NETWORKING

Leys Women's Business Network. For women who have or are interested in starting their own business, however big or small. First Tuesday of the month, 7.30–9.00pm. £1 suggested donation. 26 Kingfisher Green ☎ 01865 395960

OLDER PEOPLE

The Clockhouse
Activities, Friendship, Learning and Fun for the over 50s. The Clockhouse, Long Ground, Greater Leys. ☎ 01865 395908

Clockhouse Project support meeting: Share ideas for future activities and fund-raising, over tea and cakes. Monday 9 Aug, 1.30–3pm.

Pink tea party! Wear pink, try and help support charity Breast Cancer Care. Monday 16 August, 2–4pm.

Crafts group for over 50s: Weds, 11am–12.30pm. £1.

Computer courses for the over 50s. Complete beginners very welcome. FREE. Call 07962 887379 for details.

Pepperpots tel: Adannaya Chobbah (Oxfordshire County Council) 01865 323092

Golden Circle
☎ Bernard Tucker, 460592

Silver Circle
☎ 435954 (Prime time tel. via Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre)

Monday lunch club
☎ Anne Appleton, 422231

Leys Community Church Over-60s Club
☎ Keith Templar, 715815

Gardening Club for the over 55s

Thursday 5 August
Talk/slides by Stuart Mabbutt, Leys News gardening writer. 2pm. £2.

Saturday 14 August
Visit to Kestrel Crescent allotments for Summer Barbecue.

The Clockhouse, Long Ground, Greater Leys
☎ 01865 395908

WELLBEING

Bamboo Qi Gong Club
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7.30–8.45pm, The Barn (Off Dunnocks Way). FREE! Learn the relaxing art of Qi Gong by qualified registered instructor. ☎ 07833 536121

Oxford Survivors Free Drop-in
A self-help group of people who use or have used mental health services. Fridays and Saturdays, 10.30am –3.30pm at the Blackbird Leys Community Centre. ☎ 01865 455868

CAGLEYS SWAP SHOPS

We meet on the first Saturday of each month. Next one is on Saturday 7 Aug, outside the Barn, Nightingale Avenue, Greater Leys. 10.30am–12.30pm.

For further details text Moe Scholl on 07879 044144

Bring something to swap or just bring yourself!

CHURCH NEWS

Leys Community Church

☎ Richard & Kate Colbrook, 01865 714153

Meets on Sundays, 3.30pm at the Church of the Holy Family. Meetings include special activities for children and young people.

The Church of the Holy Family

☎ Rev David Parry, 01865 778728

www.holyfamilybbl.co.uk

Eucharist: Every Sunday, 10am, with children's church. Timeout: Reflective evening worship. Sundays, 6.30pm. Church Office Hour: Mondays at 6.30–7.30pm. For hall bookings, wedding arrangements and enquiries,. Fellowship for discussion: Most Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Prayer, Bible study.

Saturday 21 August: Holy Family Fun Day at and around the Church Centre, 1 Cuddesdon Way, incl. barbeque, refreshments, games, table-top sales (£5 per table). 2.30pm–5.00pm
Sunday 22 August: Service incl. the Ministry of Healing. 10am.
Tuesday 24 August: Welcome to our new Free Church Minister, Rev. Adam Stevenson, at Watlington Methodist Church. 7.30pm

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys (car park in Poulton Place)

☎ Phone the church office 01865 779658, for all enquiries, baptisms, and next year's First Holy Communions, etc.

Sunday Masses: 9.30am, with music and children's liturgy; 12noon in Portuguese; and at 6.00pm.

YOUR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Parish Council

Chairman: Chris Hatton; Vice Chair: Gerry Webb; Non-position holders: Anne Booker, Rae Humberstone (see City Council section below), Brian Lester, Cyril Martin, Gordon Roper, Sheila Smith, Pat Stannard.

For further details telephone 01865 716943 during office hours of 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday. Send mail to Parish Council 13 Bailey Road, Oxford, OX4 3HU.

Oxford City Council

Blackbird Leys Ward



Val Smith – Labour
4 Flaxfield Road, OX4 6QD
☎ 07767 446051
valsmith@gmail.com
or cllrvsmith@oxford.gov.uk
(her city councillor entry)



Rae Humberstone – Labour
75 Little Bury, Blackbird Leys
☎ 01865 779678
cllrhumberstone@oxford.gov.uk

Val Smith and Rae Humberstone will be doing street surgeries every other week. They can also visit people in their homes – ring or email to make arrangements.

Northfield Brook Ward



Stuart Craft – Independent Working Class Association
Furlong Close, Oxford OX4 4QJ
☎ 07733 274324

Surgery: Every Tuesday from 6.30 to 7.30pm at the Clockhouse.



Scott Seamons – Labour
2 Orchard Court Roase Hill Oxford OX4 4HJ
☎ 07910 595047
cllrseamons@oxford.gov.uk

Oxfordshire County Council Leys & Lye Division



Val Smith – Labour
4 Flaxfield Road, OX4 6QD
☎ 07767 446051
val.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Richard Stevens – Labour
Flat 6 Eaton Court, Water Eaton Road, Oxford OX2 7QT
☎ 07725 353031
richard.stevens@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament Member of Parliament for Oxford East



Andrew Smith – Labour
Unit A
Bishops Mews
Transport Way
Oxford OX4 6HD
☎ 01865 595790
andrewsmith.mp@virgin.net

Surgery: Every third Friday at the Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre from 3.00pm



What do Area Committees do?

The six Area Committees are responsible for the following:

abandoned vehicles ● street cleaning
dog wardens ● ditches and streams
decisions on planning applications
public toilets ● car parks ● allotments
parks and countryside management
street naming ● community centres

South East Area Committee Meetings:

Monday 2 August

Rose Hill Community Centre, The Oval
6.30pm

Monday 6 September

Venue to be confirmed
6.30pm

Monday 4 October

Venue to be confirmed
6.30pm

For further information ring 01865 252249

Leys News aims to bring you the best in local sporting action. If you would like to sponsor this page please email editor@leysnews.co.uk or ring 01865 711756

OXFORD UNITED ARE READY FOR THE NEW SEASON

THE U'S RETURNED this week from a pre-season tour of Scotland in which they beat Dumbarton and drew with Livingston, game in which United unveiled both a new home kit and a new away kit.

United also showed off their seven new signings for the summer. The U's have added goalkeeper Simon Eastwood from Huddersfield, defenders Ben Purkiss from York, and Harry Worley, Midfielders Asa Hall and Simon Heslop have both arrived from Luton Town while Richie Baker has joined from Bury. Up front winger Mitchell Cole has come in from Stevenage and with former loanees Alfie Potter, Stevie Kiniburgh, Matt Green and Jake Wright now permanent fixtures United look to be in good shape.

They get the chance to test themselves against the very best this week as Manchester United send a team to the Kassam Stadium. The game, on Tuesday 27 July kicks off at 7.45pm and there are reduced prices to see The U's take on the Red Devils.

On Saturday 31 (3pm) there is a chance to roll back the years as the United legends take on a Celebrity XI. Former stars such as Paul Moody, Joey Beauchamp and Blackbird Leys born Chrissy Allen will take on a celebrity team that can call on 'King of the Jungle' Joe Swash, Eastenders star John Altman (Nick Cot-



ton), and former England star Paul Merson among others. All proceeds from this match will go towards bringing through the next crop of youngsters in the club's Youth Development scheme.

And then the action starts for real...

United will be looking for a huge crowd as they start their competitive home games against Bristol

Rovers on Tuesday 10th August in the Carling Cup, but it is the emotional return to the Football League which is sure to be the star attraction. The Wembley heroes welcome Bury for the first game back in the power league 2 on 17 August.

For tickets just call 01865 337533 or pop in to the Oxford United ticket office at the Kassam Stadium.

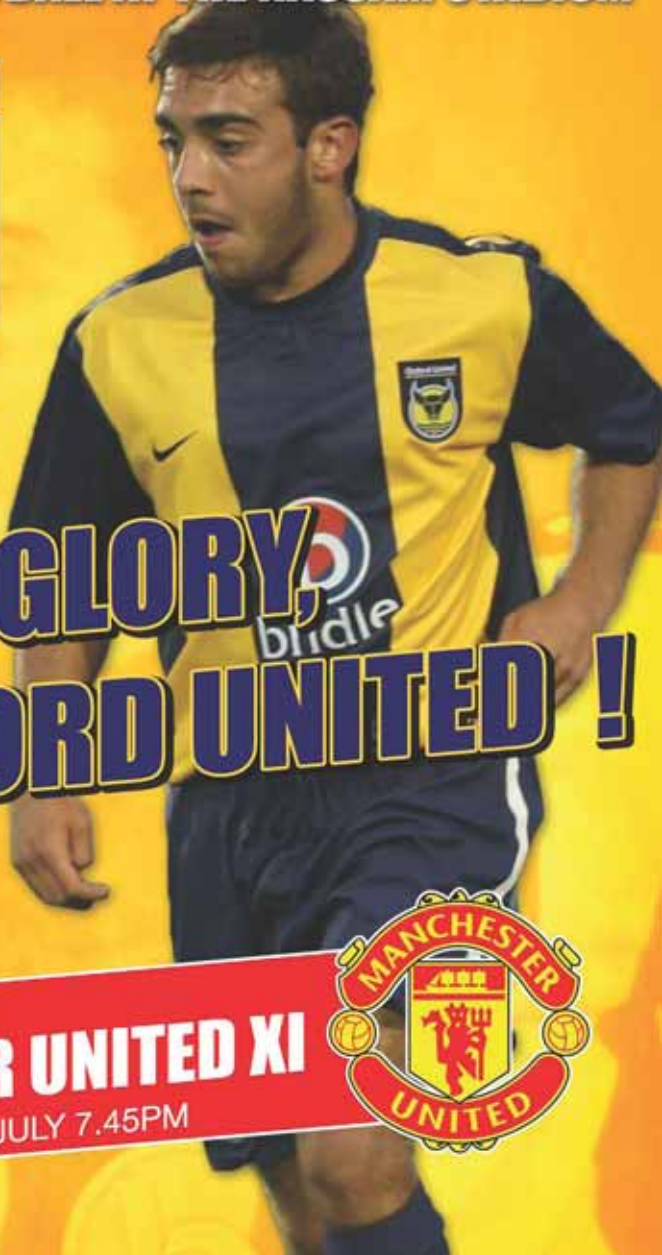
OXFORD UNITED FIXTURE LIST

AUGUST – OCTOBER 2010

Sat Aug 7 Burton Albion A	Tue Sep 21 Carling Cup 3
Tue Aug 10 Bristol Rovers H CC1	Sat Sep 25 Crewe Alexandra A
Sat Aug 14 Bury H	Tue Sep 28 Cheltenham Town A
Sat Aug 21 Wycombe Wanderers A	Sat Oct 2 Port Vale H
Tue Aug 24 Carling Cup 2	Tue Oct 5 JPT 1
Sat Aug 28 Accrington Stanley H	Sat Oct 9 Aldershot Town H
Tue Aug 31 JPT 1	Sat Oct 16 Macclesfield Town A
Sat Sep 4 Morecambe H	Sat Oct 23 Northampton Town H
Sat Sep 11 Hereford United A	Tue Oct 26 Carling Cup 4
Sat Sep 18 Stockport County H	Sat Oct 30 Bradford City A

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PRE-SEASON FOOTBALL AT THE KASSAM STADIUM



GLORY, GLORY, OXFORD UNITED !

VS
MANCHESTER UNITED XI
TUESDAY 27TH JULY 7.45PM

